REMARKS

The claims previously extant in the application have been canceled and replaced by new claims 32-48; the subject matter of claims 32-47 is disclosed on pages 4-6 of the application as filed, in conjunction with Figures 1 and 2, while the subject matter of claim 48 is disclosed on pages 6 and 7 of the application, in conjunction with Figure 3. The subject matter of the newly added claims is quite different from that of the claims previously submitted.

Independent claims 32 and 35 distinguish over the previously relied on art by defining a novel combination of steps and independent claims 40, 43 and 46 distinguish over the previously relied on art by defining a server for performing a novel combination of operations. Among the novel combination of steps and operations are: (1) a network portion of a server arrangement responding to an initial access request by anode of a network by initiating a discovery request and deriving an indication of the assigned address of the particular node (all independent claims); (2) the discovery procedure for the particular node including polling network topography, wherein the polled network typography includes (a) other nodes to which the particular node is connected, and (b) the configuration of the particular node (independent claims 32 and 40); and (3) the discovery procedure for the particular node including determining status information about the particular node (independent claims 35, 43 and 46).

The operations of dependent claim 48 are also not disclosed by the previously applied references. In particular, claim 47 states the particular node of claim 32 includes a portable computer and a docking station, wherein the docking station responds to the portable computer being initially connected to the docking station by booting the portable computer and performing a logon dialog between the network portion of the server arrangement and the portable computer The logon dialog is the initial request. The network portion of the server arrangement responds to the logon

dialog from the portable computer by determining if the portable computer is an authentic node of the network. The server arrangement, when connected to the portable computer that is an authentic node, functions as a domain controller for the portable computer.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 08-2025 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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